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on the methods of the British tradesman. In the easiest and simplest manner possible, we can place Cuba at our mercy, by simply shutting her sugar out of American markets. And we can do this without over-taxing the energies of our navy, or incurring the displeasure of European powers. We have simply to increase the duties on imported sugar, and at once have Cuba at our mercy, and at the same time strengthen one of the great agricultural interests of our own country.

V. PERRY ATWELL.

III.

THE DEATH INSTINCT IN ANIMALS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW has given considerable space of late to discussing the instincts and reasoning powers of animals. One of the most interesting questions in this line of investigation is the question whether animals are subject to premonitions of impending death. It seems sometimes as if they could feel their mortal peril without any promptings of their five senses. I remember killing a cat once in my youth, when a second shot was necessary to finish it. As I leveled my gun at the wounded creature, she turned on me a look which I can still vividly recall, after the lapse of years. There was a dignity and a despair in her look that astonished me. She was an abject and wretched creature, to which death was a merciful kindness; but the terrible look of Death that she gave me haunted me for some time.

A gentleman of my acquaintance had a beautiful tortoise-shell cat of which he and his wife were very fond. For some reason or other they most reluctantly decided to kill it, and the gentleman went out to the barn and hunted up an axe and block suitable for the disagreeable operation. When he returned to the sitting-room, the big, lazy cat was lying on his wife's lap, purring contentedly. He started to pick it up, with perfect gentleness, as he had often done, but the cat suddenly shrank back from his grasp and, looking straight up into his face, gave a most unearthly howl, as of utter despair. Both the look and the cry were quite unlike anything that he or his wife had ever seen or heard. It seemed as if the creature were conscious of his intention. What mysterious sense told it of the axe and block awaiting it?

A case still more interesting, for which I can vouch, was that of a cow and her calf. The farmer who owned them kept the calf in his barn, but drove the cow off to a distant pasture every morning with the rest of the herd. She soon became reconciled to the arrangement, and was accustomed to feed quietly until it was time to return to her calf. One day the farmer killed the calf suddenly and painlessly. There was no outcry, no chance for the cow to see the deed. She was at a distance from the barn, which apparently precluded the possibility of her knowing what had been done. Yet no sooner was the calf dead, than she left her grazing with the rest of the herd and came up to the bars, lowing and showing every symptom of uneasiness. There she stayed from noon till milking time, moving about restlessly, as she had never done before. In this case the death instinct seems to have been interwoven with the subtle maternal instinct. There was no communication possible, so far as human senses could perceive, between mother and offspring; yet there is no doubt that the cow had at least some dim knowledge of what was going on, and that she suffered more than the calf did.

Probably other cases of this kind could be gathered together, if diligent inquiry were made. Such a collection would be of great value to the physiologist and psychologist.

ARTHUR MARK CUMMINGS.